

October 27, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
Office of the Speaker
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
Office of the Democratic Leader
H-204 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Democratic Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
H-148 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McCarthy, Minority Leader Pelosi and Whip Hoyer:

As local elected officials representing the area surrounding the PolyMet project, located along the eastside of Minnesota's Iron Range, we write today to ask you for your support to move H.R. 3115, the Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017 forward.

We are encouraged with H.R. 3115's progress to date, but it needs your help to keep it moving. We urge swift action on the proposed legislation as it will allow the U.S. Forest Service and PolyMet Mining to move forward with the NorthMet Land Exchange, which has already gone through environmental review.

We understand that enactment of the bill will not authorize any mining to occur, but passage and a timely resolution of the land exchange would help move the process forward to create thousands of good-paying mining or mining-related jobs that our towns desperately need.

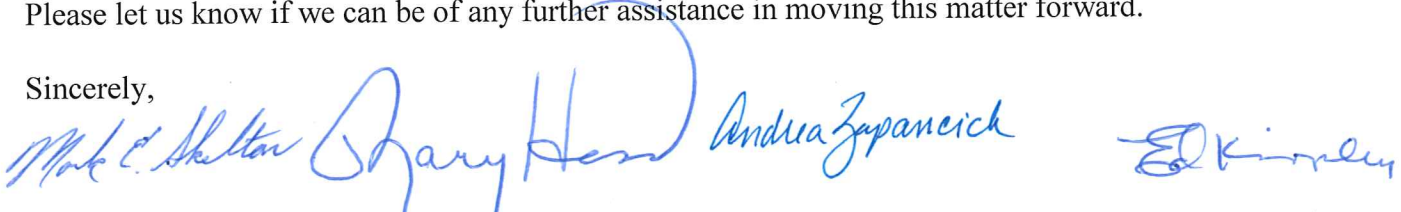
The proposed land exchange is critical to the long-term prosperity of our communities on the Iron Range; this bipartisan legislation is in Minnesota's best interest. Under H.R. 3115, PolyMet would acquire publically inaccessible federal surface land where they already own and control the underlying private minerals. In return, the United States would obtain highly accessible non-federal, private lands which collectively have equal or higher ecological and land values than the federal land for wetland and open space conservation, wildlife and public recreational use. In addition the enactment of this legislation will save U.S. taxpayers nearly a half a million dollars due to the elimination of the equalization payment the federal government would otherwise owe PolyMet.

We ask for your support and urge Leadership to exercise its full authority to bring the bill to a vote on the Floor as soon as possible.

We're proud of the Iron Range's long history of mining and we welcome a new generation of mining to support our cities, our businesses and our citizens.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance in moving this matter forward.

Sincerely,



Mayor Skelton
Hoyt Lakes
mkskelton@frontiernet.com

Mayor Hess
Aurora
mhess321@yahoo.com

Mayor Zupancich
Babbitt
andrea@zupnorth.com

Board Chair Kippley
Town of White
ed.kippley@mchsi.com